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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7438
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// PRIORITY
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK PRIORITY
RHMFIASS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHMFIASS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
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RHMFIASS/39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 004258

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/22/2016

TAGS: PREL PTER ETRD TU IZ

SUBJECT: TURKEY/IRAQ: TURKS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR PROGRESS
ON PKK AND KIRKUK

REF: ANKARA 4163 (EXDIS)

Classified By: PolMil Counselor Carl Siebentritt for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) We discussed the PKK issue July 21 with GOT Deputy Iraq Coordinator Fazli Corman. We emphasized the importance of continuing to work together to combat the PKK and underscored that the USG is engaged on the issue. We asked Corman about Turkey's recent contacts with the GOI on combatting the PKK. He replied that, since Undersecretary Tuygan's conversation with the Iraqi Ambassador on July 17 (reftel), he knew of no other significant contacts. We suggested--given the importance of this issue--that the GOT should continue to engage not only us, but also the Iraqis.

¶2. (C) Corman expressed his growing concern about the Kirkuk situation. He said Turkey appreciates recent U.S. efforts to find a consensus solution that will be acceptable to all sides; however, he is worried by the Iraqi Kurds' "aggressive stance" on the issue and their apparent belief that the city is already part of the KRG. He was disappointed with Iraqi PM Maliki's recent trip to northern Iraq, noting that Maliki's public remarks did not indicate a willingness to confront the Iraqi Kurds on the Kirkuk problem. We responded that we are concerned by the recent spate of terrorist attacks in and around the city, and that we would continue to work on the Kirkuk issue with the Iraqi government.

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